

ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2002

PRESENT: Chairman Walker, V. C. Thomas, Councilmen Agan, Forrester, Brown, Gunnells, Calhoun, Director Allen, and Attorney Pruitt.

Chairman Walker called the Public Hearing to order. First item was Ordinance 01-22, to impose a moratorium on any new outdoor advertising in Abbeville County pending revision of the County Zoning Ordinance. Council recognized Art Lloyd who wished to speak on this topic. He stated that he was a businessman and a taxpayer and that he had a problem with this ordinance because it's going to take six months for council to come up with the new county zoning ordinance. The problem he had was small business and any person opening a small business between now and the time the ordinance goes into effect is that they can't put up a sign in front of their business. Councilman Agan said that one question he had when it came to discussion, was what size sign was affected by this ordinance. (This would be discussed at 3rd Reading).

Next public hearing was a rezoning request from Brenda Powell on property located at 5 Horton Dr. Abbeville from GR to GC. Ms. Powell said that in talking with Mark Sumner on the rezoning of the property that they might have to wait to the additional property by Horton Drive is rezoned. She requested that they not wait because they are planning to set up a business there and have lots of work to do and by waiting would only delay their plans in getting their business going. Since there were no other comments, Chairman Walker adjourned the Public Hearing.

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order with prayer given by Vice Chairman Thomas.

4. Chairman Walker turned the meeting over to Attorney Pruitt for election of Chairman and Vice Chairman. Councilman Brown nominated Larry Walker to be Chairman that was seconded by V. C. Claude Thomas. Councilman Agan made a motion that nominations come to a close. Mr. Walker was reelected by acclamation. Councilman Forrester made a motion to nominate Councilman Gunnells to be Vice Chairman. Councilman Agan seconded this motion. Chairman Walker nominated current Council Vice Chairman Thomas. In the vote that followed, Gunnells defeated Thomas, 4-3. Voting for Gunnells were Gunnells himself, Buddy Agan, Forrester and Brown. Voting for Thomas were Chairman Walker, Councilman Calhoun and Thomas.

5. Presentations:

Mr. Steve Rooks to address County Council concerning River Trace Lane being taken into the County Road System. He addressed council by saying that he had been on River Trace Lane for approximately three years. The road is located off Keowee Road in the northern portion of the county and he said that both he and a friend had

been trying to maintain the road at great cost. Speaking in support of this was State Representative Harry Stille who said that Mr. Rooks had been told that this property was in a subdivision. Councilman Agan stated that we have not taken a road into our county system since 1995 that was not paved as far as a subdivision. It had to be paved to our specifications prior to us accepting it into the county system. He went on by saying that one of the specifications to get on C-Funds is that petitions must be accepted in order to notify our Public Works Dept. that we are interested in getting into the county system. After further discussion, Chairman Walker stated that we would have to rewrite the ordinances and perhaps create another one to help solve this problem. Council took no action and received the presentation as information.

6. Next item on the agenda were approval of the December 10 and 31 County Council Meeting Minutes. Councilman Thomas made a motion to approve minutes that was seconded by Councilman Calhoun. Councilman Agan stated that on page two in the middle of the first paragraph of the December 10th meeting that the full name of Cline Brandt & Kochenower should be noted instead of "Kochenower". He also noted that in the last two paragraphs that the first of the two paragraphs where we were talking about Public Safety "if we go downstairs in the basement" that this is talking about the next issue which is the assignment of the courthouse space, that those comments should be under Ad-Hoc Committee for office space. Councilman Brown made a motion to approve the minutes with the changes that was seconded by Councilman Calhoun and passed unanimously.

With reference to the minutes of the December 31st meeting, Councilman Agan made a motion to approve these minutes that was seconded by Councilman Forrester. Councilman Agan also noted that Attorney Pruitt and Councilman Gunnells were not present. Councilman Agan referred to the second paragraph wherein it states that in looking at it briefly it might be a little overkill that it should be added that 3ft of concrete in the line post holes might be a little overkill. Also Mrs. Sutton should be changed to Mr. Sutton and that drug the post should be drive the post and that quarter post should be corner post. Mr. Agan also referred to page one, bottom line wherein it says "He understood that it was not done like that on this job, but they did discuss it with the "guy" before they did it and he was curious as to who the guy was. After a brief discussion, Councilman Agan amended his motion to approve the minutes with this exception until we can get clarification of this one item. Motion was seconded by Councilman Forrester and passed unanimously.

7. Next item on the agenda was CPT C. Gunnells of the SC Army National Guard to discuss their economic impact on Abbeville County. He addressed council by telling us how the Armories are managed and that the rentals for Armories go into a statewide fund and divided out to different Armories. He went on by saying that the rentals have gone down about a year ago, especially after September 11th because the restrictions of Armories have been tightened and rental money has not been coming in. Since State funds are not available, they are saying that one solution would be to close some of the armories down.. They saw that some of the counties were giving money to the armories maintenance fund for the upkeep of the facilities. They were asked to talk with some of

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the county councils to ask them when they do their budget if they could help find a way to contribute some funds to the Armory Maintenance Fund in Abbeville County. Council received this as information.

8. Committee Reports:

Personnel & Administration, Vice Chairman Thomas, Chair had nothing to report.

Finance, Chairman Walker, Chair had no report.

Public Works; Councilman Gunnells, Chair recommended that Council approve awarding a contract to C.E. Bourne & Co., Inc. for the replacement/re-roofing of the Abbeville County Courthouse and attached annex in the amount of \$92,660. He said this was advertised and only one-person bid. Councilman Agan stated that the money is proposed to come out of two different accounts one being budgeted and the other to come from Economic Development Fund which totals \$100,000 which we will lose about half the funds if an industry should come in. The other part of this is the additional deck work, should it be necessary. Councilman Gunnells made a motion to approve the roofing contract in the amount of \$92,660 to be paid out of item 7000 Capital Projects and \$50,000 to be paid out of Dept. 532. Bldgs. and Grounds. Another \$42,660 out of Economic Development #562, line item 89900 Lump Sum Approp. And up to an additional \$10,000 to come out of the Bldg. and Grounds Dept. 532 for decking to come out of line item 70000. Motion was seconded by Councilman Thomas and passed unanimously.

The committee recommended that council approve the purchase of a 816F Cat Landfill Compactor for \$237,461 and the Committee further recommends that the County finance the Compactor for 48 months at a 4.8% resulting in a monthly payment of \$5,426. Chair Gunnells stated that we are losing a lot of space by this equipment being down. Councilman Agan asked if this had been bid out and advertised as well as the 120E Knuckle Boom to which Mr. Allen replied that it was not in the paper but the companies had been contacted in order to get bids. Councilman Agan stated that anything over \$5000 by our purchase order needed to be advertised and asked if the financing for a lease-purchase had been put out for bids. After a lengthy discussion, Director Allen stated that they tried to get other estimates but these were the only two companies that had what we needed and the Compactor from Blanchard was \$100,000 less than the other one. Chairman Walker asked how long would the process take if we advertised to which Councilman Agan replied about 2-3 weeks. Mr. Allen stated with the state contract, we would not have to advertise. Councilman Agan commented by saying that this was only for the equipment and not the financing. He said that, in the past, we have done lease-purchases and always put out for bids to the financial institution and BB&T have always come in under anybody else. The Committee also recommended that the same procedure be followed with the purchase of a 120

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Knuckle Boom Loader in the amount of \$35,740. After further discussion, Councilman Agan made a motion to table both items until after the bids had been received. Councilman Thomas seconded this motion that was passed unanimously. The Committee also recommended that Council approve Resolution No: 02-01 recognizing and thanking those individuals whose efforts made possible a State Grant to assist the County in the establishment of a County Wide Water System. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Intergovernmental Relations: Councilman Forrester, Chair stated that the committee is still working on the Boards and Commissions and informed council that Perrin Anderson, Zoning Board Member was gravely ill. Councilman Agan suggested that he make it a point to speak to these people and be sure they attend these meetings and if not, we need to reappoint, since we didn't have a quorum. Councilman Thomas said that he would like to take it a step further and asked if we could refer to the Planning and Zoning Committee with zoning involved and address the issues of people not showing up for these meetings and come back to council with some recommendations for changes. Councilman Agan felt that with the committee that was appointed at the last meeting that we take a look at all the committees since we have issues falling in on us. Councilman Thomas put this in the form of a motion that was seconded by Councilman Forrester and passed unanimously.

Planning and Industrial Development; Councilman Brown, Chair referred to Ordinance No: 01-21 for 2nd Reading to allow the County of Abbeville to establish and enforce noise regulations wherein there were areas that had been stricken through and changed making improvements to this and hoped that everyone had time to look at it. It went to the committee and everyone had some good input in making the ordinance a stronger one for our county. After a brief discussion the committee approved 2nd Reading that was passed unanimously.

Education, Recreation, Health & Welfare; Councilman Calhoun, Chair had nothing to report at this time.

Public Safety; Councilman Agan, Chair referred to Resolution No: 01-06 establishing a Risk Management Program for the County of Abbeville and what that position will do and set up a committee to monitor safety for County Employees and would consist of 7 members excluding department heads. The committee recommended that this be accepted. All Council Members were in favor.

Ad-Hoc Committee on Office Space, Councilman Gunnells, Chair stated that last week they met with the Fire Commission concerning office space at the Farmers Market and the committee originally gave them 2700 sq. ft and also agreed to let them use the space adjacent to it temporarily but that they might have to move out in 12 months or so.

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Ad-Hoc Committee on Computerization of County Government. Nothing to report at this time.

9. Old Business:

9A, (a) 3rd Reading on Ordinance 01-22 to impose a moratorium on any new outdoor advertising in Abbeville County pending revision of the Zoning Ordinance. Councilman Thomas made a motion to have 3rd Reading on this ordinance with the amendment that this would apply to all signs except those used to advertise an existing or new business on that property. Motion was seconded by Councilman Forrester and passed unanimously.

9B. (A) 3rd Reading on a zoning request from Brenda Powell on property located at 5 Horton Dr., Abbeville from GR to GC. Councilman Agan made a motion to have 3rd Reading that was seconded by Councilman Thomas and passed unanimously.

10. New Business:

10A (a) County Treasurer Scott to request Council's approval to transfer \$64,238.81 from the LOST Account to the General Fund for Nov. 2001. Councilman Agan made a motion to approve this request that was seconded by Councilman Brown and passed unanimously.

10B (a) County Treasurer Scott to request Council's approval to transfer \$177,493.75 from the LOST account to the General Fund for Dec. 2001. Councilman Agan made a motion to approve this request that was seconded by Councilman Calhoun and passed unanimously.

10C (a) Council to approve and authorize the County Director to pay the County's bills. Councilman Agan made a motion to approve bills that was seconded by Councilman Calhoun. Councilman Agan questioned where the titles were for the different departments and that none of these tell where the money goes. Director Allen said that this would be corrected as well as the gross sum of all the totals being included. After further discussion, council tabled this until the next meeting.

10D (a) A request from Woodfern Associates to rezone approximately 20.9 acres from FA to GR. There was not a quorum of the Planning Commission present on December 19, 2001 any recommendation forwarded. After a brief discussion, Councilman Gunnells made a motion to have 1st Reading that was seconded by Councilman Agan and passed unanimously.

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10E (a) Consideration of a request from Abbeville County Fire Commission that the following be elected to serve a three-year term as requested by their respective stations:

Sharon Fire Dept.	Ivan Swartzentruber
Cold Springs Fire Dept.	Steve Swartzentruber
Antreville Fire Dept.	Danny Fleming
Lowndesville Fire Dept.	Kathy Ferguson

Councilman Agan made a motion to approve these new members to the Fire Commission. Motion was seconded by Councilman Brown and passed unanimously.

10F (a) Consideration to reappoint Mr. Earle Wright to the EMS Commission as the Calhoun Falls Rescue Representative. Director Allen asked that this be removed since it was forwarded to council prematurely.

10G (a) A letter from Mark Sumner addressing appointments to the Planning Commission and Board of Assessment Appeals. (Letter to be referred to Councilman Forrester's Committee on Intergovernmental Relations) Chairman Walker said that this would be forwarded to Mr. Forrester's Committee on Intergovernmental Relations for recommendations.

11. Director's Update: Director Allen said that he had two items to discuss one of which is that there is an opening on the EMS Commission for council appointment from the Donalds-Due West area. This area covers Councilmen Brown and Gunnells area currently held by Chuck Boyer. Also Smith Data will be running tests on Wednesday with the Assessor's Office on reassessment notices.

12. Next item was an addendum to the agenda and was a request from Lisa A. Wiles for assistance from Cline, Brandt, and Kochenower for 2 days of service to complete items for the audit at a cost of approximately \$2,000. Director Allen stated that this was for the Federal Grant money and not the County Audit itself. The money would come from the lump sum non-departmental. Councilman Agan made a motion to approve this and that the money comes from the lump-sum non-departmental appropriations. Councilman Forrester seconded the motion that was passed unanimously.

Director Allen reminded everybody that the Zoning Committee would not be meeting this Thursday. The next meeting would be a week from Thursday at 7PM in the conference room. Councilman Forrester made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Councilman Agan and passed unanimously.

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